



APPENDIX 4

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (CPSP) MEETING
HELD IN THE ARMAGH CITY, BANBRIDGE CRAIGAVON BOROUGH COUNCIL, CIVIC
BUILDING, BANBRIDGE ON TUESDAY 14 JANUARY 2020 AT 1.30PM

PRESENT: Roger Wilson, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough
Council (Chair)

Councillors
Julie Flaherty
Peter Lavery
Thomas Larkham

OFFICIAL PARTNERS:	BPA	Adrian Farrell
	CVSP	Gilbert Lee
	DfC	Nicola Creagh
	EA	Ruth Bell (Vice-Chair)
	HSCB	Louise McMahon
	Libraries NI	Evelyn Hanna
	NIHE	Ailbhe Hickey
	NIFRS	Eddie Carroll
	PSNI	Inspector Kieran Quinn
	SHSCT	Paul Morgan
	SRC	Keith Kilpatrick
	Tourism NI	Brenda Murphy

APOLOGIES:	CCMS	Gillian McGrath
	CVSP	John McGuinness
	Invest NI	Ethna McNamee
	Libraries NI	Adrienne Adair
	NIHE	Catherine McFarland
	PHA	Colette Rogers
	PSNI	Chief Inspector Clare McClelland
	Sport NI	Willie Devlin
	Tourism NI	Rosemarie McHugh

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

Councillor Paul Greenfield
Councillor Garath Keating
Olga Murtagh, Strategic Director (Place)
Mark Parkinson, Strategic Director (People)

IN ATTENDANCE: Sharon McNicholl, Strategic Director (Performance)
Sharon O’Gorman, Strategic Director (Position)
Elaine Gillespie, Head of Department: Community Planning
Jennie Dunlop, Community and Strategic Planning Manager
Michelle Markey, Community Planning Officer
Patricia McParland, Democratic Services Officer

ALSO IN

ATTENDANCE: Chris Leech, Craigavon Foodbank and CVSP
Eleanor Gill, ERGA Strategies
Jez Hall, Shared Futures
Majella McCloskey, Centre for Effective Services (CES)

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1.1 Welcome

The Chair (Roger Wilson) welcomed everyone to the ninth meeting of the partnership advising that the original date for this meeting had been 12 December 2019 but this had had to be postponed due to the General Election.

He explained that following feedback at the previous meeting in September 2019, comments had been taken on board and future meetings would have a different look and feel which it was hoped would work for everyone.

He extended a particular welcome to new members including Inspector Kieran Quinn who was representing Chief Inspector Claire McClelland who would be temporarily replacing Chief Inspector Bernard O'Connor. He also welcomed Keith Kilpatrick from Southern Regional College (SRC).

A round of introductions was made.

NOTED.

1.2 Apologies

NOTED: apologies were received and accepted from Gillian McGrath CCMS, John McGuinness CVSP, Ethna McNamee Invest NI, Adrienne Adair Libraries NI, Catherine McFarland NIHE, Colette Rogers PHA, Chief Inspector Clare McClelland PSNI, Willie Devlin Sport NI, Rosemarie McHugh Tourism NI, Councillor Paul Greenfield, Councillor Garath Keating, Olga Murtagh Strategic Director (Place), Mark Parkinson, Strategic Director (People), Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.

2. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting on 18 September 2019

Minutes of the Community Planning Strategic Partnership (CPSP) meeting on 18 September 2019.

AGREED: that the Minutes of the Community Planning Strategic Partnership (CPSP) meeting on 18 September 2019 having been previously circulated be confirmed and signed off as a correct record.

3. HEARING FROM OTHERS

3.1 Presentation from Chris Leech, Craigavon Foodbank

Chris Leech went through the Powerpoint Presentation elaborating briefly on the following points:

- Craigavon Area Foodbank
- The Trussell Trust
- Restoring hope and dignity addressing fundamental need
- How our foodbank works
- Step 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- Sign Posting
 - Social Prescribing
 - Heat Services
 - 28% increase in usage
- Food Bank Statistics 01.12.2018
 - 4079 people fed
- Family Size
 - 30% Single People
 - 15% Single Parent
 - 23% Families
 - 11% Couple
 - 19% Other
- Who uses Foodbanks
- Nature of Crisis
 - 52% Low Income
 - 14.4% Benefit Delays
 - 13.8% Benefit changes
 - 4.2% No recourse to public funds
- Single People
- Low Income
- Some Solutions
- 5 Steps to Wellbeing
 - Connect
 - Be Active
 - Take Notice
 - Keep Learning
 - Give

The Chair remarked on the interesting and challenging information contained within the Presentation which he felt would be useful to many people around the table. He highlighted that it was helpful to hear how the partnership could act to help with the issues referred to.

NOTED.

3.2 Discussion and Q&A following Presentation

Councillor Flaherty thanked Chris Leech for his Presentation and highlighted that at the previous evening's meeting of the Leisure and Community Services Committee the issue of Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion had been discussed at length with some stark figures having been brought forward. She added that signposting and donations to the Foodbanks were given through her party's constituency office.

Elaine Gillespie remarked that whilst it had been discussed briefly at the Committee meeting, Council had been working on the issue for some time and the reason it came to this meeting was because Council needed input from other agencies in order to proceed. There were some big issues which required serious consideration in relation to what the partnership could do together going forward.

Chris Leech highlighted that in principle he was not a fan of foodbanks and did not feel they should be there. He explained that on occasion Craigavon Foodbank had been contacted by Police and hospitals requesting items. He continued that many children came to school not having been fed so Breakfast Clubs had been put in place. He added that the Foodbank often received requests for cereals.

Brenda Murphy enquired what the drivers were for Foodbank usage. Chris Leech explained that there were seasonal peaks and troughs and the migrant population were frequent users. He added that years of austerity and changes to the benefit system including rollout of universal credit.

Ruth Bell asked for more information in relation to the role of churches. Chris Leech explained that he was a Pastor of a Church and whilst many volunteers to the Foodbank came via churches there were lots of other services provided for example classes etc.

Inspector Quinn remarked that a high percentage of police work involved working with vulnerable people and he explained that the trends for alcohol and drug abuse were going up.

Chris Leech added that addiction issues were becoming exacerbated and there had been a significant society change in the past 20 to 30 years. He gave the example of a single man living in a bedsit who had no contact with family and dealing with health issues and alcoholism.

The Chair suggested with the Stormont Executive back in operation whether thought could be given to approaching it for assistance. Chris Leech highlighted that changes to the benefits system were being introduced and efforts would be made to empower people to deal with the changes when they happened.

Nicola Creagh enquired whether people accessed services to alleviate problems. Chris Leech explained that they were currently looking at signposting people to other agencies and consideration was also being given to moving Foodbanks to strategic locations. It was important to build up a level of trust which would help make signposting more effective. Consideration also needed to be given to assisting people on a long term basis for example through upskilling.

Paul Morgan referred to the MS Society, explaining that there were primary and secondary costs involved and that this was not a cheap option. He was aware that benefits could be reduced and this matter would be brought to the Trust Board for discussion in relation to raising awareness of poverty. He thanked Chris Leech for his presentation.

Jennie Dunlop pointed out that some of the people who used Foodbanks were in employment. Chris Leech that although unemployment was at its lowest ever level many people were employed on zero hours contracts. He added that the cost of living was increasing significantly.

Eleanor Gill pointed out that statistics showed that half the working population was only one pay packet away from financial hardship. She added that the current model was working well and was about making sure people were looked after and set on the road to recovery.

Chris Leech stressed that it was important that Council looked at its role and made good decisions. The befriending element was very important as many people were just surviving,

Louise McMahon highlighted the importance of collecting all the intelligence and she expressed her shock that in the run-up to the General Election politicians had highlighted that the United Kingdom was the fifth richest country in the world. She pointed out the importance of social prescribing adding that this was something which the community and voluntary sector was very keen on. She alluded to difficulties in coping when people became unwell. The befriending service was a good way of providing support. She welcomed the fact that hospitals were connecting with Foodbanks. She felt it was shocking that this borough was not thought of as deprived, adding the issues needed to be dealt with in manageable chunks.

Chris Leech highlighted that the benefits system could become a barrier which people felt they could not access easily. He referred to the social prescriber point raised earlier, adding that there was potential for these to become as busy as GPs. The next step down was the befriending system and consideration needed to be given to how connections could be made between socially different groups.

Louise McMahon added that she felt the term “social prescribing” was useful.

The Chair thanked partners for their comments, adding that further feedback could be channelled through TAP teams.

NOTED.

4. STRATEGIC THEME – EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AND SHARING RESOURCES – PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

4.1 Presentation from Jez Hall, Shared Futures

Jez Hall went through the Powerpoint Presentation elaborating briefly on the following points:

- Innovation in the Public Sector
- Participatory Budgeting
- Preventative spending - £1000 per night hospital bed
- Can Participatory Budgeting turn gatekeepers into door openers
- Shared Future c/c / PB Partners
- A graph of doom – Austerity
- A carbonised economy
- A democratic deficit
- Two basic models in UK
 - Participatory Grants
 - Community Led Commissioning
- Small Participatory Budgeting
- Participatory Budgeting: a bigger picture
- Big Participatory Budgeting
- Seven defining principles

- Complimenting existing democratic processes
- Transparency in practice
- Belo Horizonte, Brazil
- 2000 – 2012 in England and Wales
- The Scottish experience
- Scotland's Participatory Budgeting journey
- Key milestones
- Objectives of Participatory Budgeting in Scotland
- Education and Learning
- Participatory Budgeting Grants in Scotland
- Participatory Budgeting Fairer Food in North Ayrshire
- Participatory Budgeting and Poverty in Dumfries and Galloway
- Mainstream Participatory Budgeting in Scotland
- Digital Participatory Budgeting Test and Learn
- Participatory Budgeting Scotland Website
- Participatory Budgeting Scotland Cycle – participatory activity at all stages

NOTED.

4.2 Discussion and Q&A following Presentation

The Chair enquired whether there had been discussion regarding Participatory Budgeting at Central Government level.

Nicola Creagh explained that an Innovation Lab had taken place over two days in November 2019 which looked at how Participatory Budgeting related to Community Planning. She advised that wider discussions were ongoing in relation to area participation. There was less money available and it had to be spread more widely. There was an aspect of Participatory Budgeting being taken forward within DfC, however a broader conversation needed to take place.

Councillor Flaherty referred to a similar initiative run by PCSP called "Grab a Grand" which ran in the Craigavon DEA and was very successful. Councillor Larkham added that he understood that this was a pilot project and programmes were currently running.

Ailbhe Hickey highlighted that the Housing Executive had been involved in Participatory Budgeting in one of the other community planning partnerships recently and were keen to for our partnership to take it forward. A pilot had taken place relating to administration of community grants and it was a very worthwhile experience with a variety of groups participating. She added that many people were unaware that it had happened. A second event had taken place involving younger people and voting was online. The Housing Executive's Area Manager was planning to run a similar event this year and the Director of Finance was very support of this.

Jez Hall stressed the importance of collaborative working and gave an example of a Participatory Budgeting event in England. At the event three young people stood up and said they were transgender and three women had admitted to being victims of domestic violence during their pitches for funding. The outcomes from being involved outlasted the event and any funding awarded on the night. The young people were welcomed by the community and the women are still delivering services to people who have experienced domestic violence and have advised the UK government on policy.

Eleanor Gill remarked that there needed to be discussion around risk. Nicola Creagh advised that Department of Finance had been involved in the PB Innovation Lab and that risk had to be proportionate. The issue would be looked at further.

Louise McMahon remarked that she had been involved in the PB Innovation Lab and that the issue was that at times we are too risk averse. She added that a highly qualified member of staff from the Auditor General's Office had also attended and many questions had been answered.

Gilbert Lee remarked that he had recently received a telephone call advising that his mileage claim was out by two miles. He saw Participatory Budgeting as a way of improving momentum and it meant that the community would be in control. He referred to a recent prize giving event where two thirds of applicants had been successful.

Jez Hall referred to an area in Edinburgh which had conducted PB on £500,000 of capital works at a PB grant giving event. £750,000 of capital work was required. Discussions needed to take place so that the most important elements could be prioritised. There was also potential to pool budgets with the community and voluntary sector which added value to the process.

Gilbert Lee remarked that a decreased number of the people were voting and that fewer people wanted to get involved in the community. He thank Jez Hall for the enlightening presentation.

Jez Hall continued that he had planned to show a video depicting a church run event which had been funded from various sources.

Councillor Lavery remarked that trust in politicians was at an all-time low and welcomed the opportunity that participatory budgeting would provide.

Jez Hall highlighted the importance of local councillors being involved in the process adding that in Scotland 11 year olds could vote for what they wanted.

Eleanor Gill highlighted that some thought needed to be given to a method of public messaging and gave an example of the toll in New York which displayed a message informing the message of where money was spent.

NOTED.

There was a break between 3.27 pm and 3.40 pm.

Ruth Bell explained that the Chair (Roger Wilson) had had to leave and she would chair the remainder of the meeting.

5. COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN AND TAP TEAMS

5.1 Presentation from Eleanor Gill, ERGA Strategies

Eleanor Gill went through the Powerpoint Presentation elaborating briefly on the following points:

- Delivering Better Outcomes Together
- Delivering Outcomes: Making Transitions
- What: Strategic Priorities
- How: Ways of Working
- Measures of Success: 2020 – 2021
- Key Recommendations
- How will this work in practice?

NOTED.

5.2 Presentation from Elaine Gillespie, Head of Community Planning

Elaine Gillespie continued the Powerpoint Presentation elaborating briefly on the following points:

- Action Prioritisation Scoring Criteria (1: not good; 10: great)
- Action Prioritisation Scoring Criteria
- Delivery of Outcomes – TAP Team

Ruth Bell commended Officers for the work done.

Gilbert Lee enquired when a review of objectives would be carried out. Elaine Gillespie explained that plan was constantly being reviewed. There was a legislative duty for the Community Plan to be reviewed every four years and this would commence this year.

Gilbert Lee enquired as to the repercussions with the Stormont Executive up and running specifically on the issue of Brexit.

Nicola Creagh advised that this was an issue and stressed the importance of ensuring commonality. Discussions with Ministers had taken place and it was not likely the Programme for Government would change immediately. She need not feel that the community plans review process would be impeded but it was something Officers needed to be conscious of. She noted the TAP Team wider membership with one meeting per year and asked for more detail in relation to this. Elaine Gillespie explained that there were six TAP teams which collaborated and overlapped. There were three meetings per year and each would focus on a different TAP team.

Eleanor Gill added that everyone needed to be informed which would keep people together. The sub-committees would pick up any issues.

Paul Morgan asked if this model was being looked at in other Councils in the Southern Area. He pointed out that people were stretched and felt that there was more potential for collaborative working.

Elaine Gillespie confirmed that Officers supported collaborative working. Paul Morgan then enquired if there was any collaborative working ongoing at Council Chief Executive level, adding that he also sat on partnerships with Mid Ulster and Newry, Mourne and Down District Councils.

Elaine Gillespie confirmed that there was co-terminosity on different levels including SOLACE and EBR and she was keen to see more collaboration take place.

Eleanor Gill stated that a review of the Community Plan would take place and consideration needed to be given to evolution.

Ruth Bell pointed out that if other organisations regionally were raising common themes it would be worthwhile to collaborate.

Nicola Creagh added that the Strategic Investment Board now had completed a report on community planning and a regional group would look at these issues and the

recommendations in the report and would report back in June. It would also focus on what could be learnt from other Councils.

Eleanor Gill stressed the importance of focussing on what really mattered and categorising in order of importance.

Louise McMahon highlighted that the fundamental consideration was whether Community Planning would continue to be a thing and it was important that this was formally raised somewhere.

All partners were in agreement with the recommendations.

AGREED:

- that the Community Planning Strategic Partnership approves the CPSP Action Plan and meeting schedule.
- that the CPSP approve the prioritisation criteria and revised Enhanced and Revitalised Place Action Plan.
- revised arrangements for Thematic Action Planning Teams

6. UPDATE ON CARNEGIE UK TRUST'S EMBEDDING WELLBEING IN NI PROJECT REPORT CPSP-20-02

6.1 Verbal update from Majella McCloskey CES

Majella McCloskey went through the Powerpoint Presentation elaborating briefly on the following points:

- Shared Leadership for Community Planning
- Shared Leadership Programme Procurement
- Draft Programme Design
- What Works and What Doesn't
- Pre-Programme Starting Conditions
- Team Coaching, clarifying, co-creating and connecting
- Team Coaching Questions
- Shared Leadership Intensive Leadership 20 – 21 May 2020, 5 October 2020
- Embedding Shared
- Feedback and Questions

Nicola Creagh stressed the importance of strong leadership in the partnership adding that this would allow it to achieve anything. She felt that this was an excellent opportunity.

Elaine Gillespie added that three complimentary shared leadership programmes would also take place across our own community planning partnership.

Paul Morgan highlighted that Eleanor Gill had assisted the partnership in making decisions at a local level and pointed out that the next step would be to make this happen collaboratively for Northern Ireland. He hoped that this would help to inform the process.

Louise McMahon felt that the programme would be worthwhile, adding that the biggest challenge had been to go beyond this level.

NOTED.

6.2 Verbal update from Jennie Dunlop

Jennie Dunlop went through Report CPSP 20-02

AGREED:

- that partners contribute to the Participatory Budgeting Project through planning and/or budgetary support. Commitment to be indicated by a follow up email from the Community Planning Team.
- that at least five members of the CPSP sign up to participate in the Shared Leadership programme being delivered across the three community planning partnerships and facilitate participation by TAP Team Chairs, Council Leads, Action Coordinators and Panel Members in the local shared leadership programmes.

7. PERFORMANCE REPORTS AND STATEMENT OF PROGRESS REPORT CPSP-20-03

- Statement of Progress
- Tourism Economy Progress Report
- Creative Place Progress Report
- Enhanced and Revitalised Place Progress Report

NOTED.

8. PROGRAMME OF WORK

Eleanor Gillespie went through the Powerpoint Presentation elaborating briefly on the following points:

- Programme of Work
- Statement of Progress
- Leadership and Engagement Carnegie
- Action Plan Review
- Partnership Meeting

NOTED.

9. AOB

There was no other business.

10. CLOSE

The business having been completed, the meeting concluded at 4.48 pm.